

**To:** Distefano, Nichole[DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov]; Bloomgren, David[Bloomgren.David@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Vaught, Laura[Vaught.Laura@epa.gov]  
**From:** Behringer, Caroline  
**Sent:** Fri 1/24/2014 11:55:09 PM  
**Subject:** Re: West Virginia follow up

We've gotten a request from UCS to respond to this letter, but the focus is less on scientific integrity and more giving press direct access to our scientists during a crisis. We drafted a response that David ran by Laura, which basically says that we have, in fact, been responsive.

CB

Caroline Behringer  
Deputy Press Secretary  
Office of the Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Office: (202) 564-0098  
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**From:** Distefano, Nichole  
**Sent:** Friday, January 24, 2014 6:47:46 PM  
**To:** Bloomgren, David; Behringer, Caroline  
**Cc:** Vaught, Laura  
**Subject:** FW: West Virginia follow up

Have either of you received any press inquiries about our scientific integrity as it relates to WV?  
See below.

Nichole Distefano

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Here is the UCS post:

[West Virginia Scientists Call on Federal Agencies to Stop Blocking Information Requests on Chemical Spill](#)

The letter to CDC and EPA from the WV scientists:

<http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/center-for-science-and-democracy/letter-to-epa-cdc-from-wv-scientists.pdf>

And the letter from the Society of Environmental Journalists to EPA and CDC:

<http://www.sej.org/sej-spj-say-agency-media-obstacles-hurt-public-confidence-water-safety>